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EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

TERMS—TWO DOLLARS a year in advance.

SALEM, N. C.: SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 1865.

Governor's Proclamation.—The Proclamation of W. W. Holden, Provisional Governor of North Carolina, will be found in this paper, to which we would call special attention. It is well written, plain, statesmanlike paper, and needs only to be read to be fully understood. We commend itself to all patriotic, true and loyal Union men.

We know that our good people are very anxious to have the State government, county, &c., again in full operation; it will early day, but it must be remembered that a structure can be pulled down of damaged more hastily than it can be rebuilt or repaired, and that it is sometimes the best policy to "make haste slowly." Gov. Holden will, no doubt, transact his official business in a manner satisfactory to all.

It will be seen that the State Convention and its proceedings are to be submitted to the people for their ratification or rejection. The Convention will provide for the election by the people of a Governor and members of the Legislature; and the Legislature will elect two U. S. Senators.

An election for Representatives in the United States Congress will also be ordered at the same time.

As all State offices are declared vacant (including magistrates, &c.) the Governor will appoint Justices of the Peace to conduct the elections, through subordinates, for members of the Convention. Already to the laws of the State in force previously to May, 1861.

Arrangements will be made to hold Courts, under certain restrictions, and the Justices will be authorized to appoint their Sheriff, Clerks, temporarily, and such other officers as may be indispensable.

We again speak for the Proclamation a careful perusal.

The Condition of the South.—The recent Proclamation of Amnesty, by the President of the United States, plainly indicates that those people in the South who have hitherto been influential are now shorn of their power, and that they must be content to be permitted, for a time at least, to be quiet citizens. The reins of power, remarks the Wilmington *Herald*, have passed into the hands of the masses of the people—those who heretofore have been the pliant tools in the hands of the controlling few.

And those, too, who have hitherto proscribed the thoughts and words of the Southern people may now thank their stars that [illegible] thought and word be theirs. Every man has [illegible] for a think as he pleases, and speak as he pleases, provided always that he speaks republican sentiments. Such is the altered condition of the South.

There is a great deal of complaint has frequently been made in the matter of letters. We learn from the Greensborough *Patriot* that letters can be mailed to any point in the United States by depositing them in the post office at that place and paying the postage on them. We presume [illegible] applies to the "provisional" post office at Salem, although no postmaster has yet been appointed. The Salem better plan, however, would be to trouble the [illegible] at this place a little longer, to whom, and his predecessors, we are [illegible] and the public are under many obligations for their kind attention [illegible]

The prospects the West, is to say, were never more promising.

The West crop in this section [illegible]

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SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA: SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 1865.

PROCLAMATION

BY WILLIAM W. HOLDEN,
PROVISIONAL GOVERNOR OF NORTH CAROLINA.

TO THE PEOPLE OF NORTH CAROLINA:

Whereas the President of the United States, Andrew Johnson, has appointed a Provisional Governor of the State of North Carolina, and has authorized him to call a Convention of the people of said State for the purpose of altering or amending the Constitution thereof, and to restore said State to its relations to the Federal Government, and to present nothing Republican in State Government as will entitle the State to the guarantee of the United States therefor, and its people to protection by the United States against domestic violence:

And Whereas, It is proper to put the people of the State entitled to vote in a condition to act understandingly and with efficiency upon the high matters which will be before the Convention, and to secure the election of such delegates and representatives as are known to be loyal to the United States, and will faithfully carry out the measures indispensable to restore peace, security and freedom to our State:

Now, therefore, I, WILLIAM W. HOLDEN, Provisional Governor of North Carolina, do proclaim and declare—

1st. That a Convention of the people of North Carolina will be held, at as early a period as practicable, to be composed of the same number of members to which the several Counties are respectively entitled in the House of Commons of the State Legislature. No person will be a candidate of the Convention, or a person who will vote for delegates, unless he shall take the following oath or affirmation before the officer holding the election, to wit:

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) in the presence of Almighty God, that I will henceforth faithfully support, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Union of the States thereunder, and that I will, in like manner, abide by and faithfully support all laws and proclamations which have been made during the existing rebellion with reference to the emancipation of slaves. So help me God."

And no person not entitled to vote under the Federal Constitution and laws of the United States will be permitted to take said oath, or to vote at said election.

Measures will be perfected as early as practicable for administering the above oath to such persons as may be entitled to take it, and for providing them with certificates of the same, that they may present the same at the polls.

2nd. The Convention thus to be called will consist of the same number of members from the several Counties as the Counties are entitled to in the House of Commons of the State Legislature, and the elections for members of the Convention will be held at the same places, and conducted by the same officers, who conduct elections for members of the Legislature, and the Convention shall assemble in the City of Raleigh on the 2nd Tuesday after the election.

3rd. The Qualification of the Electors, and the eligibility of members of the Convention, will be the same as prescribed by the Constitution and laws of the State of North Carolina in force immediately before the 20th day of May, 1861, the date of the Ordinance of Secession; and all persons who may be disqualified as electors, or as members of the Convention, by reason of participation in the existing rebellion, except such as may be hereafter designated by the President of the United States, will be entitled to vote in the election of delegates, and to be members of the Convention, upon taking the oath prescribed by the President in his Proclamation of May 29th, 1865, and not otherwise.

4th. An election will also be held, at the same places, and conducted by the same officers, for members of the House of Commons and Senators to represent the State in the Congress of the United States.

Inasmuch as there are no civil magistrates in this State, nor State officers of any kind, the Provisional Governor, by virtue of authority in him vested by the President of the United States, will preside over the Convention, and appoint a Secretary thereof.

And I do hereby recommend to the loyal people of said State who are entitled to vote, as aforesaid, to assemble in their respective Counties, at the places of holding elections, on the day designated for the election of delegates, and by a full vote express their free opinion upon the subject of framing a new State Government.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State to be affixed, at the City of Raleigh, this 9th day of June, A. D. 1865.

WILLIAM W. HOLDEN.

By the Governor:
WILLIAM HILL, Private Secretary.

TO THE PEOPLE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

Fellow-Citizens:—In accordance with the Proclamation of the President of the United States, I have been appointed Provisional Governor of the State of North Carolina, and charged with the duty of assisting the loyal people of the State in the reorganization of a State Government, which will restore the State to her proper relations with the Federal Government.

In the Proclamation which I have issued, I have followed strictly the instructions of the President. Upon the adoption by the Convention of the Ordinances required by the President, the Provisional Governor will have performed his entire duty, and the remainder of the work of reconstruction will devolve upon the loyal people of the State.

Fellow-citizens, I am sure that you will not be unmindful of the solemn responsibilities which rest upon you. You are to decide whether you will resume your former relations to the Federal Government. You are to say whether you will repudiate the authority which you have hitherto exercised over the State, and whether you will reject the men who have led you into secession and rebellion. You are to say whether you will trample under foot the Constitution of the United States, and whether you will forever blot out the State Government which you have established. You are to say whether you will incur the enormous debt created by the Legislature and people in their efforts to destroy the Government of the United States. You are to say whether you will repudiate the debt created in the interest of human slavery, and whether you will hereafter pay taxes for the benefit of your former masters. You are to say whether you will abolish slavery, and whether you will make no provision for the support of the negro, or whether you will confer upon him the rights of freedom. You are to say whether you will secede from the Union, and whether you will declare that the Union is a confederacy of sovereign States, or whether you will declare that it is a Government, supreme over the States, and the people of the States

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